## HOUSE BILL No. 2391

## By Committee on Elections

2-9

AN ACT concerning campaign finance; relating to the governmental ethics commission; establishing a two-year statute of limitations for complaints; limiting the commission's subpoena powers; allowing respondents to have a hearing transferred before a presiding officer under the Kansas administrative procedure act; amending K.S.A. 25-4119a, 25-4119d, 25-4143, 25-4145, 25-4148, 25-4148c, 25-4152, 25-4153a, 25-4153b, 25-4154, 25-4157a, 25-4158, 25-4161, 25-4163, 25-4165, 25-4170, 25-4181, 25-4182 and 25-4185 and repealing the existing sections.

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) The provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act, the Kansas code of civil procedure, the Kansas judicial review act and the Kansas public speech protection act shall apply to actions by the governmental ethics commission or commission staff, including, but not limited to, applications for judicial relief in district court. All actions pursuant to this act, including, but not limited to, investigative and enforcement actions and applications to the commission, shall constitute a claim for purposes of the Kansas public speech protection act.

- (b) The statute of limitations for bringing any action before the commission shall be brought within two years of the first act giving rise to the cause of action or complaint.
- (c) No action by the commission, including, but not limited to, the issuance of any consent order, order dismissing a complaint or any other preliminary or final order by the commission, shall require a respondent to waive any civil or legal rights to judicial recourse in any manner.
- (d) No person shall be held responsible for any action on behalf of another individual or entity subject to the provisions of this act unless such person is an agent as defined by K.S.A. 25-4143, and amendments thereto.
- (e) The commission shall provide by rules and regulations the standards by which any member of the commission, the executive director or any other person employed or engaged by the commission shall recuse themselves from any matter before the commission by reason of a conflict of interest, appearance of impropriety or other basis affecting the ability of the commission to neutrally and fairly enforce the governmental ethics act.

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42 43 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 25-4119a is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4119a. (a) There is hereby created the Kansas commission on governmental standards and conduct.

(b) On July 1, 1998, the Kansas commission on governmentalstandards and conduct is hereby redesignated as the governmental ethics commission. On and after July 1, 1998, whenever the Kansas commission on governmental standards and conduct, or words of like effect, is referred to or designated by a statute, contract or other document, such reference or designation shall be deemed to apply to the governmental ethics commission. Nothing in this act shall be construed as abolishing andreestablishing the Kansas commission on governmental standards and eonduct. The commission shall consist of nine members, of whom two shall be appointed by the governor, one by the president of the senate, one by the speaker of the house of representatives, one by the minority leader of the house of representatives, one by the minority leader of the senate, one by the chief justice of the supreme court, one by the attorney general and one by the secretary of state. Nothing in this act shall be construed as affecting the terms of members serving on July 1, 1998. Not more than five members of the commission shall be members of the same political <del>party and</del> The two members appointed by the governor shall not be members of the same political party.

(e)(b) The terms of all-subsequently appointed members shall be two years commencing on February 1 of the appropriate years. Vacancies occurring on the commission shall be filled for the unexpired term by the same appointing officer as made the original appointment. Members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. The governor shall designate one of the members appointed by the governor to be the chairperson of the commission. A majority vote of five members of the commission shall be required for any action of the commission. The commission may adopt rules to govern its proceedings and may provide for such officers other than the chairperson as it may determine. The commission shall meet at least once each quarter, and also shall meet on call of its chairperson or any four members of the commission. Members of the commission attending meetings of such commission, or attending a subcommittee meeting thereof authorized by such commission, shall be paid compensation, subsistence allowances, mileage and other expenses as provided in subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of K.S.A. 75-3223(a) through (d), and amendments thereto. The commission shall appoint an executive director who shall be in the unclassified service and receive compensation fixed by the commission, in accordance with appropriation acts of the legislature, subject to approval by the governor. The executive director shall have the same qualifications of commission members as described in K.S.A. 25-4119(d), and amendments thereto. The commission may employ

such other staff and attorneys as it determines, within amounts appropriated to the commission, all of whom shall be in the unclassified service and shall receive compensation fixed by the commission and not subject to approval by the governor.

- (d)(c) The commission may adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the campaign finance act. Subject to K.S.A. 25-4178, and amendments thereto, rules and regulations adopted by the commission created prior to this act shall continue in force and effect and shall be deemed to be the rules and regulations of the commission created by this section of this enactment, until revised, amended, repealed or nullified pursuant to law. All rules and regulations of the commission shall be subject to the provisions of article 4 of chapter 77 of Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto. The commission shall continue to administer all of the acts administered by the commission to which it is successor.
- (e)(d) The commission may provide copies of opinions, informational materials compiled and published by the commission and public records filed in the office of the commission to persons requesting the same and may adopt rules and regulations fixing reasonable fees therefor. All fees collected by the commission under the provisions of this subsection shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the governmental ethics commission fee fund.
- (f)(e) The commission shall submit an annual report and recommendations in relation to all acts administered by the commission to the governor and to the legislative coordinating council on or before December 1 of each year. The legislative coordinating council shall transmit such report and recommendations to the legislature.
- (g) Whenever the Kansas commission on governmental standards and conduct, or words of like effect, is referred to or designated by a statute, contract or other document, such reference or designation shall be deemed to apply to the governmental ethics commission.
- Sec. 3. K.S.A. 25-4119d is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4119d. (a) From and after the effective date of this act, no person shall be appointed to membership on the commission who has held the office of chairperson, vice chairperson or treasurer of any county, district or state political party committee, or who within five years preceding the date of such appointment has been a candidate for or the holder of any partisan political office or who has within three years preceding the date of such appointment: (1) Held an elective state office; (2) held the office of secretary of any department of state government; (3) been a lobbyist as defined by K.S.A. 46-222, and amendments thereto; (4) been an officer or

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employee who directly participated in the making of a contract on behalf of a vendor of goods and services with the state of Kansas or any agency thereof; or (5) provided services under contract to the state of Kansas or any agency thereof.

- (b)—While serving on the commission created by K.S.A. 25-4119a, and amendments thereto, no member shall: (1) Be an individual subject to the provisions of the campaign finance law or the provisions of K.S.A. 46-215 et seg., and amendments thereto, administered or enforced by the eommission; (2) Serve as a chairperson or treasurer for any candidate or committee subject to the provisions of the campaign finance act; (3) (2) actively solicit contributions subject to the provisions of the campaign finance act; (4) (3) be a lobbyist as defined by K.S.A. 46-222, and amendments thereto; (5) (4) be an officer or employee who directly participated in the making of a contract on behalf of a vendor of goods and services with the state of Kansas or any agency thereof; (6) (5) provide services under contract to the state of Kansas or any agency thereof; (7) (6) be a candidate for or the holder of any partisan political office; (8) (7) be the chairperson, vice chairperson or treasurer of any county, district or state political party committee;—(9) (8) directly or indirectly solicit contributions for any partisan political party or any organization thereof or any candidate for partisan political office; or (10) (9) endorse any candidate for any partisan political office subject to the provisions of this act.
- (b) For purposes of this section, "partisan political office" means any office for which any candidate is nominated or elected as representing a party of whose candidates for presidential elector received votes in the last preceding election at which presidential electors were selected. "Partisan political office" does not include any office or position within a political party or affiliated organization, including, but not limited to, precinct, county, congressional district or state party committee members.
- (c) Whenever any member of the commission is ineligible to serve as a member thereof under the provisions of subsections (a) and (b)—of this section, the membership of such person shall terminate and such person shall no longer be eligible to participate in any action or proceeding by the commission. Such vacancy shall be filled in the manner prescribed by K.S.A. 25-4119a, and amendments thereto.
- Sec. 4. K.S.A. 25-4143 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4143. As used in the campaign finance act, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) "Agent" means an individual who is:
    - (1) A candidate:
- 42 (2) a chairperson of a candidate, political or party committee;
  - (3) a treasurer;

1 (4) any person with written power of attorney pursuant to K.S.A. 58-2 651 et seq., and amendments thereto, to bind a person listed above.

- (b) "Candidate" means an individual who:
- (1) Appoints a treasurer or a candidate committee;
- (2) makes a public announcement of intention to seek nomination or election to state or local office;
- (3) makes any expenditure or accepts any contribution for such person's nomination or election to any state or local office; or
- (4) files a declaration or petition to become a candidate for state or local office.
- $\frac{\text{(b)}(c)}{\text{(c)}}$  "Candidate committee" means a committee appointed by a candidate to receive contributions and make expenditures for the candidate.
- $\frac{(e)}{d}$  "Clearly identified candidate" means a candidate who has been identified by the:
  - (1) Use of the name of the candidate;
  - (2) use of a photograph or drawing of the candidate; or
- (3) unambiguous reference to the candidate whether or not the name, photograph or drawing of such candidate is used.
  - (d)(e) "Commission" means the governmental ethics commission.
  - (e)(f) (1) "Contribution" means:
  - (A) Any advance, conveyance, deposit, distribution, gift, loan or payment of money or any other thing of value given to a candidate, candidate committee, party committee or political committee for the express purpose of nominating, electing or defeating a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office.
  - (B) Any advance, conveyance, deposit, distribution, gift, loan or payment of money or any other thing of value made to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office:
  - (C) a transfer of funds between any two or more candidate committees, party committees or political committees;
  - (D) the payment, by any person other than a candidate, candidate committee, party committee or political committee, of compensation to an individual for the personal services rendered without charge to or for a candidate's campaign or to or for any such committee;
- (E) the purchase of tickets or admissions to, or advertisements in journals or programs for, testimonial events;
- (F) a mailing of materials designed to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, which is made and paid for by a party committee with the consent of such candidate.
  - (2) "Contribution" does not include:

 (A) The value of volunteer services provided without compensation;

- (B) costs to a volunteer related to the rendering of volunteer services not exceeding a fair market value of \$50 during an allocable election period as provided in K.S.A. 25-4149, and amendments thereto;
- (C) payment by a candidate or candidate's spouse for personal meals, lodging and travel by personal automobile of the candidate or candidate's spouse while campaigning;
- (D) the value of goods donated to events such as testimonial events, bake sales, garage sales and auctions by any person not exceeding a fair market value of \$50 per event.
  - (f)(g) "Election" means:
  - (1) A primary or general election for state or local office; and
- (2) a convention or caucus of a political party held to nominate a candidate for state or local office.
  - $\frac{g}{h}(h)$  (1) "Expenditure" means:
- (A) Any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or any other thing of value made by a candidate, candidate committee, party committee or political committee for the express purpose of nominating, electing or defeating a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office:
- (B) any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or any other thing of value made to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office;
  - (C) any contract to make an expenditure;
- (D) a transfer of funds between any two or more candidate committees, party committees or political committees; or
  - (E) payment of a candidate's filing fees.
  - (2) "Expenditure" does not include:
  - (A) The value of volunteer services provided without compensation;
- (B) costs to a volunteer incidental to the rendering of volunteer services not exceeding a fair market value of \$50 during an allocable election period as provided in K.S.A. 25-4149, and amendments thereto;
- (C) payment by a candidate or candidate's spouse for personal meals, lodging and travel by personal automobile of the candidate or candidate's spouse while campaigning or payment of such costs by the treasurer of a candidate or candidate committee;
- (D) the value of goods donated to events such as testimonial events, bake sales, garage sales and auctions by any person not exceeding fair market value of \$50 per event; or
- (E) any communication by an incumbent elected state or local officer with one or more individuals unless the primary purpose thereof is to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly

1 identified candidate.

- (h)(i) "Expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate" means any communication—which that uses phrases including, but not limited to:
  - (1) "Vote for the secretary of state";
  - (2) "re-elect your senator";
- (3) "support the democratic nominee";
- 8 (4) "cast your ballot for the republican challenger for governor";
- 9 (5) "Smith for senate";
- 10 (6) "Bob Jones in '98";
  - (7) "vote against Old Hickory";
    - (8) "defeat" accompanied by a picture of one or more candidates; or
- 13 (9) "Smith's the one."
  - (i)(j) "Party committee" means:
  - (1) The state committee of a political party regulated by article 3 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto;
  - (2) the county central committee or the state committee of a political party regulated under article 38 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto;
  - (3) the bona fide national organization or committee of those political parties regulated by the Kansas Statutes Annotated;
  - (4) not more than one the political committee established by the state committee of any such political party and designated as a recognized political committee for the senate;
  - (5) not more than onethe political committee established by the state committee of any such political party and designated as a recognized political committee for the house of representatives; or
  - (6) not more than onethe political committee per congressional district established by the state committee of a political party regulated under article 38 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, and designated as a congressional district party committee.
  - $\frac{(i)}{(k)}$  "Person" means any individual, committee, corporation, partnership, trust, organization or association.
  - (k)(l) (1) "Political committee" means any entity including a combination of two or more individuals who are not married to one another, or any person other than an individual, a major the primary purpose of which is to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office or make contributions to or expenditures for the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office, and the entity spends more than \$2,500 on express advocacy during a calendar year and has the major purpose of making contributions to candidates, candidate

committees or political committees.

- (A) As used in this paragraph "primary purpose" means the entity meets at least one of the following standards:
- (i) The entity publicly states that its primary purpose is to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office or make contributions to or expenditures for the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office; or
- (ii) the entity spends at least 50% of the entity's total spending on contributions or expenditures reportable under this act during a two-year general or local election cycle.
- (B) "Total spending" includes all disbursements for contributions and expenditures but does not include volunteer time.
- (C) For purposes of determining "total spending," grants to other organizations shall be treated as follows:
- (i) A grant made to a political committee or an organization organized under section 527 of the internal revenue code shall be counted in total spending and as a contribution or expenditure, unless expressly designated for use outside Kansas or for federal elections, in which case such spending shall be counted in total spending but not as a contribution or expenditure.
- (ii) If the entity making a grant takes reasonable steps to ensure that the transferee does not use such funds to make a contribution or expenditure in Kansas, such grant shall be counted in total spending but not as a contribution or expenditure.
- (iii) If the entity making a grant expressly earmarks a portion of the grant for a contribution or expenditure in Kansas, the grant shall be counted in total spending and the earmarked portion of the grant shall count as a contribution or expenditure.
- (2) "Political committee" shall not include a candidate committee or a party committee, but may include a corporate political action committee, a separate segregated fund established by a membership organization or an independent expenditure-only political committee.
- (1)(m) "Receipt" means a contribution or any other money or thing of value, but not including volunteer services provided without compensation, received by a treasurer in the treasurer's official capacity.
- $\frac{\text{(m)}(n)}{\text{(m)}}$  "State office" means any state office as defined in K.S.A. 25-2505, and amendments thereto.
- (n)(o) "Testimonial event" means an event held for the benefit of an individual who is a candidate to raise contributions for such candidate's campaign. "Testimonial events" include, but are not limited to, dinners, luncheons, rallies, barbecues and picnics.
  - (o)(p) "Treasurer" means a treasurer of a candidate or of a candidate

 committee, a party committee or a political committee appointed under the campaign finance act or a treasurer of a combination of individuals or a person other than an individual which is subject to - paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of K.S.A. 25-4172(a)(2), and amendments thereto.

- (p)(q) "Local office" means a member of the governing body of a city of the first class, any elected office of a unified school district having 35,000 or more pupils regularly enrolled in the preceding school year, a county or of the board of public utilities.
- Sec. 5. K.S.A. 25-4145 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4145. (a) Each party committee and each political committee which anticipates receiving contributions or making expenditures shall appoint a chairperson and a treasurer. The chairperson of each party committee and each political committee which anticipates receiving contributions or making expenditures for a candidate for state office shall make a statement of organization and file it with the secretary of state not later than 10 days after establishment of such committee. The chairperson of each political committee which anticipates receiving contributions or making expenditures for any candidate for local office, shall make a statement of organization and file it with the county election officer not later than 10 days after establishment of such committee.
  - (b) Every statement of organization shall include:
- (1) The name and address of the committee. The name of the committee shall reflect the full name of the organization with which the committee is connected or affiliated or sufficiently describe such affiliation. If the political committee is not connected or affiliated with any one organization, the name shall reflect the trade, profession or primary interest of the committee as reflected by the statement of purpose of such organization;
- (2) the names, addresses and email addresses, which such email addresses shall be optional, of the chairperson and treasurer of the committee;
- (3) the names and addresses of affiliated or connected organizations; and
- (4) in the case of a political committee, the full name of the organization with which the committee is connected or affiliated or, name or description sufficiently describing the affiliation or, if the committee is not connected or affiliated with any one organization, the trade, profession or primary interest of the political committee as reflected by the statement of purpose of such organization.
- (c) Any change in information previously reported in a statement of organization shall be reported on a supplemental statement of organization and filed not later than 10 days following the change.
  - (d) (1) Each political committee which anticipates receiving

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contributions shall register annually with the commission on or before July 1 of each year. Each political committee registration shall be in the form and contain such information as may be required by the commission.

- (2) Each registration by a political committee anticipating the receipt of more than \$10,000 shall be accompanied by an annual registration fee of \$300.
- (3) Each registration by a political committee anticipating the receipt of \$2,501 or more, but less than \$10,001, in any calendar year shall be accompanied by an annual registration fee of \$300 \$100.
- (3)(4) Each registration by a political committee anticipating the receipt of more than \$500 but less than \$2,501 in any calendar year shall be accompanied by an annual registration fee of \$50.
- (4)(5) Each registration by a political committee anticipating the receipt of \$500 or less in any calendar year shall be accompanied by an annual registration fee of \$25.
- (5) (6) Any political committee which is currently registered under subsection -(d)(3) (d)(4) or -(d)(4) (d)(5) and which receives contributions in excess of \$2,500 for a calendar year, shall file, within three days of the date when contributions exceed such amount, an amended registration form which shall be accompanied by an additional fee for such year equal to the difference between \$300 the fee owed and the amount of the fee that accompanied the current registration.
- (6)(7) Any political committee which is currently registered under subsection  $\frac{d}{d}$  (d)(5) and which receives contributions in excess of \$500 but which are less than \$2,501; shall file, within three days of the date when contributions exceed \$500, an amended registration form which shall be accompanied by an additional fee of \$25 for such year.
- (e) All such fees received by or for the commission shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the governmental ethics commission fee fund.
- Sec. 6. K.S.A. 25-4148 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4148. (a) Every treasurer shall file a report prescribed by this section. Reports filed by treasurers for candidates for state office, other than officers elected on a state-wide basis, shall be filed in both with the office of the secretary of state. Reports filed by treasurers for candidates for state-wide office shall be filed electronically and only with the secretary of state. Reports filed by treasurers for candidates for local office shall be filed in the office of the county election officer of the county in which the name of the candidate is on the ballot. Except as otherwise provided by subsection (h), all such reports shall be filed in time to be received in the offices required on or before each of the following days:

 (1) The eighth day preceding the primary election, which report shall be for the period beginning on January 1 of the election year for the office the candidate is seeking and ending 12 days before the primary election, inclusive;

- (2) the eighth day preceding a general election, which report shall be for the period beginning 11 days before the primary election and ending 12 days before the general election, inclusive;
- (3) January 10 of the year after an election year, which report shall be for the period beginning 11 days before the general election and ending on December 31, inclusive;
- (4) for any calendar year when no election is held, a report shall be filed on the next January 10 for the preceding calendar year;
- (5) a treasurer shall file only the annual report required by subsection (4) for those years when the candidate is not participating in a primary or general election.
  - (b) Each report required by this section shall state:
  - (1) Cash on hand on the first day of the reporting period;
- (2) the name and address of each person who has made one or more contributions in an aggregate amount or value in excess of \$50 during the election period together with the amount and date of such contributions, including the name and address of every lender, guarantor and endorser when a contribution is in the form of an advance or loan;
- (3) the aggregate amount of all proceeds from bona fide sales of political materials such as, but not limited to, political campaign pins, buttons, badges, flags, emblems, hats, banners and literature;
- (4) the aggregate amount of contributions for which the name and address of the contributor is not known;
- (5) each contribution, rebate, refund or other receipt not otherwise listed:
  - (6) the total of all receipts;
- (7) the name and address of each person to whom expenditures have been made in an aggregate amount or value in excess of \$50, with the amount, date, and purpose of each; the names and addresses of all persons to whom any loan or advance has been made; when an expenditure is made by payment to an advertising agency, public relations firm or political consultants for disbursement to vendors, the report of such expenditure shall show in detail the name of each such vendor and the amount, date and purpose of the payments to each;
- (8) the name and address of each person from whom an in-kind contribution was received or who has paid for personal services provided without charge to or for any candidate, candidate committee, party committee or political committee, if the contribution is in excess of \$100 and is not otherwise reported under subsection (b)(7), and the amount, date

and purpose of the contribution;

- (9) the aggregate of all expenditures not otherwise reported under this section; and
  - (10) the total of expenditures.
- (c) In addition to the requirements of subsection (b), every treasurer for any political committee and party committee shall report the following:
- (1) (A) The name and address of each candidate for state or local office for whom an expenditure in the form of an in-kind contribution has been made in an aggregate amount or having a fair market value in excess of \$300, with the amount, date and purpose of each. The report shall show in detail the specific service or product provided; and
- (B) the name and address of each candidate for state or local office who is the subject of an expenditure which:
- (i) Is made without the cooperation or consent coordination of a candidate or candidate committee;
- (ii) expressly advocates the nomination, election or defeat of such candidate; and
- (iii) is an aggregate amount or having a fair market value in excess of \$300.
- (2) The report shall state the amount, date and purpose of the expenditure in the form of an in-kind contribution. The report shall show in detail the specific service or product provided. The reporting requirements imposed by this subsection shall be in addition to all other requirements required by this section.
- (d) Treasurers of candidates and of candidate committees shall itemize the purchase of tickets or admissions to testimonial events by a person who purchases such tickets or admissions in an aggregate amount or value in excess of \$50 per event, or who purchases such a ticket or admission at a cost exceeding \$25 per ticket or admission. All other purchases of tickets or admissions to testimonial events shall be reported in an aggregate amount and shall not be subject to the limitations specified in K.S.A. 25-4154, and amendments thereto.
- (e) If a contribution or other receipt from a political committee is required to be reported under subsection (b), the report shall include the full name of the organization with which the political committee is connected or affiliated or, a description of the connection to or affiliation with such organization. If, the committee is not connected or affiliated with any one organization, the report shall state the trade, profession or primary interest of the political committee as reflected by the statement of purpose of such organization.
- (f) The commission may require any treasurer to file an amended report for any period for which the original report filed by such treasurer contains material errors or omissions. The notice of the errors or omissions

shall be part of the public record. The amended report shall be filed within 30 days after notice by the commission.

- (g) The commission may require any treasurer to file a report for any period for which the required report is not on file. The notice of the failure to file shall be part of the public record. Such report shall be filed within five days after notice by the commission.
- (h) For the purpose of any report required to be filed pursuant to subsection (a) by the treasurer of any candidate seeking nomination by convention or caucus or by the treasurer of the candidate's committee or by the treasurer of any party committee or political committee, the date of the convention or caucus shall be considered the date of the primary election.
- (i) If a report is sent by certified or registered mail on or before the day it is due, the mailing shall constitute receipt by that office.
- (j) Any report required by this section may be signed by the candidate in lieu of the candidate's treasurer or the treasurer of the candidate's committee.
- Sec. 7. K.S.A. 25-4148c is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4148c. (a) Every treasurer for a party committee or political committee shall file reports of independent expenditures as prescribed by this act. Reports shall be filed with the secretary of state. Reports required by this section shall be in addition to any other reports required by law.
- (b) (1) The report shall contain the name and address of each party committee or political committee which has made or contracted to be made independent expenditures in an aggregate amount or value in excess of \$300 or more during the period commencing 11 days before a primary or general election at which a state or local officer is to be elected and ending at 11:59 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding the date of the election. Such report shall contain the amount, date and purpose of each such independent expenditure, as well as the name of the candidate whose nomination, election or defeat is expressly advocated. When an independent expenditure is made by payment to an advertising agency. public relations firm or political consultant for disbursement to vendors, the report of such independent expenditure shall show in detail the name of each such vendor and the amount, date and purpose of the payments to each, as well as the name of the candidate whose nomination, election or defeat is expressly advocated. The report shall be made on or before the close of business on the Thursday preceding the date of the election.
- (2) In addition, a separate report shall be made on a daily basis for the Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding the election. Each daily report shall contain the information required in paragraph (1)-of this section. Each report shall be filed by 5:00 p.m. on the next day respectively.
  - (c) Reports required by this section shall be filed by hand delivery,

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express delivery service, facsimile transmission or any electronic method authorized by the secretary of state.

- (d) (1) "Expenditure"-shall have the meaning ascribed to it means the same as defined in K.S.A. 25-4143, and amendments thereto.
- (2) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure that is made without the cooperation or consent coordination of the candidate or agent of such candidate intended to be benefited and which expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate.
- (3) "Party committee" shall have the meaning ascribed to it means the same as defined in K.S.A. 25-4143, and amendments thereto.
- (4) "Political committee"-shall have the meaning ascribed to it means the same as defined in K.S.A. 25-4143, and amendments thereto.
- (e) The provisions of this section shall be part of and supplemental to the campaign finance act.
- Sec. 8. K.S.A. 25-4152 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4152. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the commission shall send a notice by registered or certified mail to any person failing to file any report or statement required by K.S.A. 25-4144, 25-4145 or 25-4148, and amendments thereto, and to the candidate appointing any treasurer failing to file any such report, within the time period prescribed therefor. The notice shall state that the required report or statement has not been filed with either the office of secretary of state or county election officer or both. The person failing to file any report or statement, and the candidate appointing any such person, shall be responsible for the filing of such report or statement. The notice also shall state that such person shall have 15 days from the date such notice is deposited in the mail to comply with the registration and reporting requirements before a civil penalty shall be imposed for each day that the required documents remain unfiled. If such person fails to comply within the prescribed period, such person shall pay to the state a civil penalty of \$10 per day for each day that such report or statement remains unfiled, except that no such civil penalty shall exceed \$300. The commission may waive, for good cause, payment of any civil penalty imposed by this section.
  - (b) (1) Subject to the notice provisions of subsection (a), reports that are due under the provisions of K.S.A. 25-4148(a)(1) and (2), and amendments thereto, for candidates that appear on the ballot for the thencurrent primary or general election ballot and are late more than 48 hours shall be subject to civil penalties as provided in subsection (b)(2).
- (2) The candidate shall be liable for a civil penalty of \$100 for the first day the report is more than 48 hours late and \$50 for each subsequent day the report is late, but in no case shall the civil penalty exceed \$1,000. The commission may waive, for good cause, payment of any civil penalty imposed by this section.

(c) (1) Subject to the notice provisions of subsection (a), reports that are due under the provisions of K.S.A. 25-4145 and 25-4148, and amendments thereto, for each political committee that anticipates receiving \$2,501 or more in any calendar year and are late more than 48 hours shall be subject to civil penalties as provided in subsection (c)(2).

- (2) The political committee shall be liable for a civil penalty of \$100 for the first day the report is more than 48 hours late and \$50 for each subsequent day the report is late, but in no case shall the civil penalty exceed \$1,000. The commission may waive, for good cause, payment of any civil penalty imposed by this section.
- (d) Civil penalties provided for by this section shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the governmental ethics commission fee state general fund.
- (e) If a person fails to pay a civil penalty provided for by this section, it shall be the duty of the commission to bring an action to recover such civil penalty in the district court of the county in which such person resides.
- Sec. 9. K.S.A. 25-4153a is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4153a. (a) No registered lobbyist, political committee or person, other than an individual, shall make a contribution after January 1 of each year and prior to adjournment sine die of the regular session of the legislature or at any other time in which the legislature is in session to a:
  - (1) Legislator;
  - (2) candidate for membership in the legislature;
  - (3) state officer elected on a statewide basis:
  - (4) candidate for state officer elected on a statewide basis:
- (5) candidate committee of persons described in paragraphs (1) through (4); or
- (6) political committee established by a state committee of any political party and designated as a recognized political committee for the senate or house of representatives.
- (b) No legislator, officer, candidate or committee described in subsection (a)(1) through (6) shall accept or knowingly solicit any contribution as defined by K.S.A. 25-4143, and amendments thereto, from any registered lobbyist, political committee or person, other than an individual, during such period of time described in subsection (a), except that a general public solicitation which does not solicit a specific individual and is distributed via social media shall be permissible. No solicitation shall be considered a violation of this act if such solicitation is accompanied with a disclaimer that it is not intended for lobbyists, political committees or persons other than individuals.
- 43 political committees or persons other than individuals.

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 (c) For the purposes of this act, "social media" means an electronic medium which allows users to create and view user-generated content, including, but not limited to, uploaded or downloaded videos or photographs, blogs, audio files, instant messages or email.

- Sec. 10. K.S.A. 25-4153b is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4153b. (a) No political committee, a major purpose of which is to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for the legislature or to make contributions or expenditures for the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for the legislature, shall be established by a member of or a candidate for the legislature. No member of or candidate for the legislature shall serve as the treasurer or chairperson of a political committee. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, nothing in this section shall prohibit a member of or candidate for the legislature from soliciting funds for or participating in the activities of a party or political committee.
- (b) Any such political committee existing prior to the effective date of this act is hereby abolished.
- Sec. 11. K.S.A. 25-4154 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4154. (a) (1) No person shall make a contribution in the name of another person, and no person shall knowingly accept a contribution made by one person in the name of another.
- (2) As used in this subsection "contribution in the name of another" means a contribution given to another individual or entity for the purpose of concealing the original source of any funds reported on any report or statement filed under this act. This section shall not apply to contributions, expenditures or transfers subject to the requirements of this act made by an individual or committee otherwise reporting the contribution, expenditure or transfer on a report or statement filed under this act.
- (b) No person shall give or accept any contribution in excess of \$10 unless the name and address of the contributor is made known to the individual receiving the contribution.
- (c) The aggregate of contributions for which the name and address of the contributor is not reported under K.S.A. 25-4148, *and amendments thereto*, shall not exceed 50% of the amount one individual, (other than the candidate or spouse), may contribute to or for a candidate's campaign.
- (d) No person shall copy any name of a contributor from any report or statement filed under the campaign finance act and use such name for any commercial purpose, and no person shall use any name for a commercial purpose with knowledge that such name was obtained solely by copying information relating to contributions contained in any report or statement filed under the campaign finance act.
  - Sec. 12. K.S.A. 25-4157a is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-

 4157a. (a) No moneys received by any candidate or candidate committee of any candidate as a contribution under this act shall be used or be made available for the personal use of the candidate and no such moneys shall be used by such candidate or the candidate committee of such candidate except for:

- (1) Legitimate campaign purposes;
- (2) expenses of holding political office;
- (3) contributions to the party committees of the political party of which such candidate is a member;
- (4) any membership dues related to the candidate's campaign paid to a community service or civic organization in the name of the candidate;
- (5) any donations paid to any organization which is recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization or any religious organization, community service or civic organization in the name of the candidate or candidate committee of any candidate but only if the candidate receives no goods or services unrelated to the candidate's campaign as a result of the payment of such donations;
- (6) expenses incurred in the purchase of tickets to meals and special events sponsored by any organization the major purpose of which is to promote or facilitate the social, business, commercial or economic well being of the local community; or
- (7) expenses incurred in the purchase and mailing of greeting cards to voters and constituents;
- (8) expenses, compensation or gifts provided to any volunteer, staff member or contractor of the candidate's campaign or provided to any volunteer or staff of the candidate's political office;
- (9) payment of any civil penalty imposed by the commission pursuant to this act;
  - (10) payment of legal fees related to any matter under this act; or
- (11) expenses incurred for family caregiving services when such expenses are incurred as a result of the candidate's candidacy for office or holding office and are directly related to or have an effect on the candidate's campaign activities or duties as an office holder.
- (b) (1) For the purpose of this subsection, expenditures for "personal use" shall include expenditures to defray normal living expenses for the candidate or the candidate's family and expenditures for the personal benefit of the candidate having no direct connection with or effect upon the campaign of the candidate or the holding of public office.
- 39 (2) "Personal use" does not include any uses listed in subsection (a) 40 (1).
  - (3) "Family caregiving services" means the provision of care for an individual who is an immediate family member of the candidate and who is:

(A) Under 13 years of age;

(B) disabled: or

- (C) qualified for senior care services; and
- (4) "Immediate family member" means a spouse, parent, stepparent, grandparent, sibling, child, stepchild, grandchild, former spouse or any individual living in the same residence as the candidate.
- (b)(c) No moneys received by any candidate or candidate committee of any candidate as a contribution shall be used to pay interest or any other finance charges upon moneys loaned to the campaign by such candidate or the spouse of such candidate.
- (e)(d) No candidate or candidate committee shall accept from any other candidate or candidate committee for any candidate for local, state or national office, any moneys received by such candidate or candidate committee as a campaign contribution. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a candidate or candidate committee from accepting moneys from another candidate or candidate committee if such moneys constitute a reimbursement for one candidate's proportional share of the cost of any campaign activity participated in by both candidates involved. Such reimbursement shall not exceed an amount equal to the proportional share of the cost directly benefiting and attributable to the personal campaign of the candidate making such reimbursement.
- (d)(e) At the time of the termination of any campaign and prior to the filing of a termination report in accordance with K.S.A. 25-4157, and amendments thereto, all residual funds otherwise not obligated for the payment of expenses incurred in such campaign or the holding of office shall be contributed to a charitable organization, as defined by the laws of the state, contributed to a party committee or returned as a refund in whole or in part to any contributor or contributors from whom received or paid into the general fund of the state.
- (f) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a candidate or candidate campaign from contributing moneys received by such candidate or candidate committee as a campaign contribution to a party or political committee, and nothing in this section shall prohibit a party or political committee from accepting a contribution from a candidate or candidate committee, provided that the contribution is not contractually restricted to uses for a specific purpose.
- (2) "Contractually restricted to uses for a specific purpose" means only a binding and legally enforceable limitation on the manner in which a contribution may be used and does not include suggestions, advice, requests or other non-binding statements made by the candidate, candidate committee or agent thereof regarding the potential use of the funds.
  - Sec. 13. K.S.A. 25-4158 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-

4158. (a) The secretary of state shall:

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- (1) Furnish forms prescribed and provided by the commission for making reports and statements required to be filed in the office of the secretary of state by the campaign finance act; and
- (2) make such reports and statements available for public inspection and copying during regular office hours.
  - (b) The county election officer shall:
- (1) Furnish forms prescribed and provided by the commission for making reports and statements required to be filed in the office of the county election officer by the campaign finance act; and
- (2) make such reports and statements available for public inspection and copying during regular office hours.
- (c) The commission may investigate, or cause to be investigated, any matter required to be reported upon by any person under the provisions of the campaign finance act, or any matter to which the campaign finance act applies irrespective of whether a complaint has been filed in relation thereto
- (d) (1) After a preliminary investigation of any matter reported to the commission pursuant to subsection (e), and upon specific written findings of fact and conclusions of law by the commission that there is a reasonable suspicion that a violation of the campaign finance act has occurred, the commission or any officer designated by the commission may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, agreements, or other documents or records which the commission deems relevant or material to the investigation. The commission shall reimburse the reasonable costs of production of documents subject to subpoena. All subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum issued under this section shall be authorized by the affirmative vote of not less than <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the members of the commission. Any vote authorizing the issuance of a subpoena or subpoena duces teeum shall be taken at ameeting where the commissioners are in physical presence. Subpoenasduces tecum shall be limited to items reasonably relevant to such alleged violations. Upon the request of any person subpoenaed to appear and give testimony or to produce books, papers or documents, the commission shall provide a copy of the written findings of facts and conclusions of lawsrelating to the alleged violation committed by such person.
- (2) In ease of contumacy by, or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, the district court of Shawnee county, upon application by the commission, or any officer designated by the commission, may issue to that person an order requiring the person to appear before the commission or any officer designated by the commission, there to produce documentary evidence if so ordered or to give evidence touching the

matter under investigation or in question. Any failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt of court The commission shall not have the power to issue any subpoena prior to the determination of probable cause on a filed complaint pursuant to K.S.A. 25-4161(e), and amendments thereto. The commission may request that the attorney general or a county or district attorney file an application for an inquisition in a district court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to K.S.A. 22-3101, and amendments thereto, for the purpose of the attorney general or county or district attorney investigating potential violations of the campaign finance act.

- (e) The provisions of K.S.A. 25-4160a, and amendments thereto, shall apply to any actions by the commission or commission staff pursuant to this section.
- Sec. 14. K.S.A. 25-4161 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4161. (a) If a complaint is filed and the commission determines that such verified complaint does not allege facts, directly or upon information and belief, sufficient to constitute a violation of any provision of the campaign finance act, it shall dismiss the complaint and notify the complainant and respondent thereof.
- (b) Whenever a complaint is filed with the commission alleging a violation of a provision of the campaign finance act, such filing and the allegations therein shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except as provided in the campaign finance act.
- (c) If a complaint is filed and the commission determines that such verified complaint does allege facts, directly or upon information and belief, sufficient to constitute a violation of any of the provisions of the campaign finance act, the commission shall promptly investigate the alleged violation.
- (d) The commission shall notify the attorney general of any apparent violation of criminal law or other laws not administered by the commission, which is discovered during the course of any such investigation.
- (e) If after the investigation, the commission finds that probable cause does not exist for believing the allegations of the complaint, the commission shall dismiss the complaint. If after such investigation, the commission finds that probable cause exists for believing the allegations of the complaint, such complaint shall no longer be confidential and may be disclosed. Upon making any such finding, the commission shall fix a time for a hearing of the matter, which shall be not more than 30 days after such finding. In either event the commission shall notify the complainant and respondent of its determination.
- (f) The remedies and protections provided by K.S.A. 75-2973, and amendments thereto, shall be available to any state employee against

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42 43 whom disciplinary action has been taken for filing a complaint pursuant to this act.

- (g) Any attorney or staff member representing the complainant before the commission shall not engage in ex parte communications with or otherwise advise, represent or assist the commission regarding any matter before the commission. The commission shall obtain separate independent legal counsel in the event any attorney or staff member employed by the commission represents the complainant in any matter before the commission.
- (h) (1) All hearings conducted under this act shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act and the Kansas code of civil procedure. Upon the request of the respondent, any hearing held under this act may be removed for hearing before a presiding officer from the office of administrative hearings. The commission shall review an initial order resulting from a hearing under this section.
- (2) The commission is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with the office of administrative hearings and to provide for reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses and compensation for such person serving as a presiding officer.
- (i) The duties of confidentiality under this section shall apply only to members of the commission, the executive director or any person employed or engaged by the commission.
- Sec. 15. K.S.A. 25-4163 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4163. (a) After a verified complaint alleging violation of a provision of the campaign finance act has been filed with the commission, the respondent shall be entitled to examine and make copies of all evidence in the possession of the commission relating to the complaint, including the transcript of the hearing, if any. If a hearing is to be held pursuant to K.S.A. 25-4161, and amendments thereto, the commission presiding officer, before the hearing has commenced, shall issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum at the request of any party, subject to the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act, the Kansas code of civil procedure act and all other general laws applicable to issuance and quashing of subpoenas. The commission shall reimburse the reasonable costs of production of documents subject to subpoena. Any hearing held under K.S.A. 25-4161, and amendments thereto, may be conducted and held by a subcommittee of not less than five members of the commission, of whom not more than a majority shall be of the same political party. Prior to the commencement of any hearing before the commission, upon the request of any party, any hearing held under this act may be removed for hearing and pre-hearing procedure before a presiding officer from the office of administrative hearings, as provided in K.S.A. 25-4161, and amendments thereto. The presiding officer shall conduct the hearing in the

manner prescribed by the Kansas administrative procedure act. Final determination of all complaints shall be made by the commission as a whole. The chairperson of the commission or other member presiding over the commission or the presiding member of any subcommittee of the commission shall have the power to: (1) Administer oaths and affirmations; and (2) compel, by subpoena, the attendance of witnesses and the production of pertinent books, papers and documents. Witnesses shall be entitled to receive fees and mileage as provided by law for witnesses in civil actions, which shall be paid out of appropriations to the commission. Depositions may be taken and used in the same manner as in civil actions. Any person subpoenaed to appear and give testimony or to produce books, papers or documents, who fails or refuses to appear or to produce suchbooks, papers or documents, or any person, having been sworn to testify, who refuses to answer any proper question, may be eited for contempt of the district court of Shawnee county, Kansas. The commission shall report to such court the facts relating to any such contempt. Thereupon-proceedings before such court shall be had as in eases of other civilcontempt. The commission shall not conduct another hearing on the matter but shall make final determination based on the record of the hearing before the presiding officer or subcommittee of the commission.

- (b) At every hearing held by the commission under this act:
  - (1) Oral evidence shall be taken only on oath or affirmation.
  - (2) Each party shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel, to call and examine witnesses, to introduce evidence and to cross-examine opposing witnesses.
- (3) The provisions of K.S.A. 25-4161(g), and amendments thereto, shall apply to legal counsel representing a complainant employed or engaged by the commission.
  - (c) All hearings shall be open to the public.

 Sec. 16. K.S.A. 25-4165 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4165. (a) The commission shall maintain a record of its investigations, inquiries, and proceedings. All records, complaints, documents, reports filed with or submitted to or made by the commission, and all records and transcripts of any investigations, inquiries or hearings of the commission under the campaign finance act shall be confidential and shall not be open to inspection by any individual other than a member of the commission, an employee of the commission, or a state officer or employee designated to assist the commission, except as otherwise specifically provided in the campaign finance act. The commission may, by adoption of a resolution, authorize the release to the attorney general or to the county or district attorney of the appropriate county of any information, records, complaints, documents, reports, and transcripts in its possession material to any matter pending before the attorney general or any county or district attorney. All

matters presented at a public hearing of the commission and all reports of the commission stating a final finding of fact pursuant to K.S.A. 25-4164, and amendments thereto, shall be public records and open to public inspection.

- (b) The duties under this section shall apply only to members of the commission, the executive director or any person employed or engaged by the commission.
- Sec. 17. K.S.A. 25-4170 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4170. (a) Excessive campaign contribution is:
- (a)(1) Intentionally making any contribution in violation of any provision of K.S.A. 25-4153, or
  - (b)(2) intentionally accepting any contribution made in violation of any provision of K.S.A. 25-4153.
  - (b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a contribution, expenditure or transfer of money between party or political committees and candidates and candidate committees made in compliance with K.S.A. 25-4154, and amendments thereto
    - (c) Excessive campaign contribution is a class A misdemeanor.
  - Sec. 18. K.S.A. 25-4181 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4181. (a) The commission, in addition to any other penalty prescribed under the campaign finance act, may assess a civil fine, after proper notice and an opportunity to be heard, against any person for a violation of the campaign finance act in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for the first violation, \$10,000 for the second violation and \$15,000 for the third violation and for each subsequent violation. The fine imposed by the commission in any one matter shall not exceed an amount that is double the applicable fine for a single violation in such matter. Nothing in this section shall prevent the imposition of a separate fine by a court in a criminal proceeding. Whenever any civil fine or penalty is proposed to be assessed against the treasurer of any candidate who is not also the candidate, such notice shall be given to both the treasurer and the candidate prior to the assessment of such fine or penalty. All fines assessed and collected under this section shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the governmental ethics commission fee state general fund.
  - (b) No individual who has failed to pay any civil penalty or civil fine assessed, or failed to file any report required to be filed under the campaign finance act, unless such penalty or fine has been waived or is under appeal, shall be eligible to become a candidate for state office or local office until such penalty or fine has been paid or such report has been filed or both such penalty or fine has been paid and such report filed.

(c) The commission shall not reduce, waive or otherwise modify any fine previously imposed pursuant to a consent decree or final order.

- (d) The commission shall not order community service or any other specific performance in lieu of a civil fine as part of a consent decree or final order.
- (e) The commission shall not enter into any agreement with any person that legally binds the commission from enforcing any law against that person in exchange for the person's cooperation with or assistance of the commission in any matter.
- Sec. 19. K.S.A. 25-4182 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4182. (a) If the commission determines after notice and opportunity for a hearing that any person has engaged or is engaging in any act or practice constituting a violation of any provision of the campaign finance act or any rule and regulation or order hereunder, the commission by order may require that such person cease and desist from the unlawful act or practice and take such affirmative action as in the judgment of the commission will carry out the purposes of such act.
- (b) If the commission makes written findings of fact that the public interest will be irreparably harmed by delay in issuing an order under subsection (a), the commission may issue an emergency temporary cease and desist order. Such order, even when not an order within the meaning of K.S.A. 77-502, and amendments thereto, shall be subject to the same procedures as an emergency order issued under K.S.A. 77-536, and amendments thereto. Upon the entry of such an order, the commission shall promptly notify the person subject to the order that it has been entered, of the reasons therefor and that upon written request the matter will be set for a hearing which shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act. Upon the request of the respondent, any hearing held under this act may be removed for hearing before a presiding officer from the office of administrative hearings as provided in K.S.A. 25-4161, and amendments thereto. If no hearing is requested and none is ordered by the commission, the order will remain in effect until it is modified or vacated by the commission. If a hearing is requested or ordered, the commission, after notice of and opportunity for hearing to the person subject to the order, shall by written findings of fact and conclusions of law vacate, modify or make permanent the order. Any such order shall be enforceable in any court of competent iurisdiction.
- Sec. 20. K.S.A. 25-4185 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4185. Any person aggrieved by any order of the commission pursuant to this act may appeal such order in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas judicial review act. *Any appeal to the district court shall be a trial de novo*.

- 1 Sec. 21. K.S.A. 25-4119a, 25-4119d, 25-4143, 25-4145, 25-4148, 25-
- 2 4148c, 25-4152, 25-4153a, 25-4153b, 25-4154, 25-4157a, 25-4158, 25-
- 3 4161, 25-4163, 25-4165, 25-4170, 25-4181, 25-4182 and 25-4185 are
- 4 hereby repealed.
- Sec. 22. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.